## Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 H-02

/027 W ------ 112676
R 241730Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

**UNCLAS KINGSTON 0799** 

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 289

FOR EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, JM
SUBJECT: GOJ APPROVES GUARANTEE OF LOANS TO BUY SHARES OF
JAMAICAN TELEPHONE COMPANY

REF: 75 KINGSTON 3655 AND PREVIOUS

- 1. ON FEBRUARY 11, JAMAICAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HR) APPROVED GUARANTEE OF LOANS AMOUNTING TO \$20.805 MILLION FOR GOJ'S ACQUISITION OF MAJORITY SHAREHOLDING IN JAMAICA TELEPHONE COMPANY. RESOLUTION FOR THIS ACTION MOVED BY SYDNEY PAGON, MINISTER OF WORKS AND COMMUNICATION ON BEHALF OF MINISTER OF FINANCE DAVID COORE.
- 2. PAGON REMINDED HR OF GOJ'S DECISION ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1975 TO PURCHASE 30,759,308 JTC SHARES OWNED BY CONTINENTAL TELPHONE CORP. AND ITS SUBSIDIARY, CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORP. ACQUISITION WAS TO BE MADE FOR SUM OF J\$28 1/4 MILLION (REPORTED IN REFTEL AS US\$31,075,000).
- 3. WITH 10 PERCENT ALREADY OWNED BY GOJ, PURCHASE WILL BRING ANOTHER 68 PERCENT OF COMPANY'S SHARES OR 78 PERCENT TOTAL SHARES UNDER GOJ OWNERSHIP. 68 PERCENT ACQUISITION WILL BE FINANCED BY 15-YEAR PROMISSORY NOTE COVERING J\$28 1/4 MILLION, REPAYMENT OF WHICH WOULD BE MADE IN 26 EQUAL SEMI-ANNUAL INSTALMENTS STARTING 30 MONTHS AFTER DATE OF NOTE. UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTE WILL BEAR INTEREST AT 8 7/8 PERCENT ANNUM FOR FIRST 12 YEARS AND 9 PERCENT PER ANNUM FOR FOLLOWING THREE YEARS,

## PAYABLE SEMI-ANNUALLY.

- 4. PAGON SAID GOJ HAD MADE OFFER TO MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS HOLDING 22 PERCENT OF COMPANY'S SHARES TO PURCHASE THEIR SHARES ON SAME BASIS IT WAS ACQUIRING CTC'S HARES. NOTE: JTC SPOKESMAN INFORMED EMBOFF GOJ'S OFFER WILL BE MADE ON FEBRUARY 27 AND WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR CONSIDERATION BY MINORITY STOCKHOLDERS UNTIL APRIL 30, 1976.
- 5. THE MINISTER STATED BOOK VALUE OF SHARES WAS 77.5 CENTS PER SHARE AFTER JULY 31, 1975, THE VALUE OF WHICH FORMED BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS. HAD ACQUISITION BEEN THROUGH CASH, COST OF SHARES WOULD HAVE BEEN 91.8 CENTS EACH. ACCORDING TO PAGON, WHEN GOJ DISCOUNTED VALUE OF PAYMENT FOR 68 PER CENT SHARE ACQUISITION OVER PERIOD OF LOAN AT RATE OF 11 PER CENT YEAR, WHICH IS RATE AT WHICH GOJ BORROWS VIA LOCALLY REGISTERED STOCK, SHARE VALUE WORKS OUT AT 73.5 CENTS EACH. THE MINISTER NOTED THEREFORE DISCOUNTED PRESENT VALUE OF SHARES (73.5 CENTS) AT GOING BORROWING RATE FOR GOJ IS LOWER THAN BOOK VALUE OF SHARES AT 31ST JULY, 1975. DORRANCE

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## Message Attributes

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Subject: GOJ APPROVES GUARANTEE OF LOANS TO BUY SHARES OF JAMAICAN TELEPHONE COMPANY TAGS: EINV, ETEL, JM, JAMAICA TELEPHONE CO, CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE CORP To: STATE

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